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MADE PLAIN.

BY ERNEST E. HENFORD.

I have been blind, but now a light
Breaks in upon my darkened sight,
And, at the last, I understand
The love behind the chastening hand.

Into my life a sorrow came,
And I remember now with shame
The wild, rebellious thoughts that rose,
And counted God among my foes.

"Is this Thy love?" I cried. "No, no!
Love would not smite the bruised heart so;
Love pities. Love would bind its balm
Upon the heart that aches for calm."

"Love cannot lift a chastening hand,"
I cried, and could not understand
How out of love is sorrow sent
To win the heart through punishment.

But now I know. Last night I heard
A mother's kind, reproving word,
And saw a child in anger turn
Her love to doubt, reproof to spurn.

How patiently with him she plead;
Love spoke in every word she said,
And yet, so stubborn had he grown,
The child's heart seemed a thing of stone.

Finding the child would not repent
His waywardness, came punishment,
And though he struggled, stubborn still,
She overcame the wayward will.

I saw her holding on her breast
The punished child, when rocked to rest,
And tears were falling like a rain
To tell how great the mother's pain.

"My child," she cried, "this punishment
Is in anger was not sent;
But love thine errors loves to reprove
For thine own good, because of love."

"Oh, little one, thou canst not know
What pain it gave me to bestow
The punishment that needs must be,
If thou wilt spurn love's patient plea."

The blindness vanished from my sight;
I read the Father's love aright;
When hearts, grown stubborn, spurn His plea,
The love that tears so patiently.

With waywardness, His punishment,
Because He loves them so, is sent.
So, out of chastening cometh gain
To us—but oh, the Father's pain!

THE MINISTRY OF TREES.

BY BISHOP WARREN.

We have this day ridden nearly seventy miles, sometimes behind five horses and sometimes behind six, over a country that has not had a drop of rain in six months, where we have not bridged water but once and wet the tires of our wheels but twice. Of course the dust has a great tendency to rise from beneath the tramping of so many feet and wheels, especially when the thermometer touches 100 degrees in the shade. The first three hours were across a treeless, shrubless, grassless plain; the next three over hills sparsely wooded, and the next six over mountains covered with magnificent forests containing the greatest trees in the world. Trees are always interesting and beautiful, and sometimes sublime.

Now trees are always interesting and beautiful, seen singly, in groups, and in vast forests; how much more so after such an introduction! After such heat their cool shade, after such dust their moist soft leaves emitting more than "Sabean odors from the spicy shore of Araby the blest," after such oppressive silence their delightful music, after such withering and death such exuberance of life, after such painful seeking for some object of interest in earth or sky, their myriad forms of beauty and majesty really thrust upon one—then they give a joy akin to rapture. There are no more interesting single trees than the elms of Northampton, Mass. No distantly associated trees have affected me more than those in the close of the school at Rugby. But the effects of these bear no more comparison to that of trees in the mass and by the hundred thousand than the influence of one man, or of half a dozen that one casually talks with, bears to the influence of all Athens assembled before the Pnyx, rousing Demosthenes to the sublimest possibilities of his being.

One who wishes to see forests must

come to the Pacific coast. Oregon, Washington Territory, and the mountains of California teach men what real forests are. I jumped off the stage at a change of horses to take the girth of a white pine near at hand. At a height of three feet from the ground it measured 32 feet, 3 inches—nearly eleven feet diameter. I have just measured the height of a tree only three feet in diameter. It is 148 feet high. A fallen giant proves to be four feet in diameter at 175 feet from the roots. Now to see such trees for miles, over valleys and up the sides of lofty mountains, far as the eye can distinguish them, brings a feeling of amazement. They are not single trees scattered here and there, but they often stand so near together that another could not grow between them. Then they are so perfect. It is easy to find them straight as a line for two hundred and fifty feet, with a pole round as Giotto's O, with a bark almost entirely smooth, spread under by a soft, modest carpet of pine needles, and canopied above with a beautiful green roof absolutely symmetrical in form and filled with the music of a soft and soul-like sound. To figure one of these pines as "fit for the mast of some tall admiral," is to dwarf it. There is no tall admiral afloat that would not instantly roll its keel out of water if furnished with such masts as these.

Nothing can be more beautiful than the sight of the tops of a few thousand pine trees seen on the slope of a not distant mountain. Their leafy canopies, perfect in form, rise one above another like the tents of myriads of angels, with an order and regularity no army ever approximates. One would not think he was seeing the same picture if he looked upon a western slope illuminated by a rising, and by a setting, sun. In the one case there is distinctness, individuality, almost hints of single pine needles; in the other there is the sombre majesty of the mass. In the one case it is the individual that appears; in the other it is the army.

Well does the forest illustrate the value of association. Not one of these pines standing alone could resist a gentle breeze; their vast height would only render more disastrous the necessary crash; but lifting their broad shoulders together, they toss all tempests from their lofty tops, and the wind is known below only by its music. So, too, their compact association compels every young tree to attempt their grandeur of height. There is no sunshine but at the top. There are also all the conditions of standing upright. It matters not how great may be the delicacy on which they stand, they rise in the calm air straight toward the sky.

There is a solemn grandeur in their tenacity of life. Often the fires consume a whole side or burn out a vast hollow at the base, leaving the immense tree standing on a few separate legs, but still the currents of life ascend from the earth, still the top drinks in sunshine and air. It strengthens itself at the injured part and defiantly rises above misfortune. At length it is unable to live longer. There it stands in all its perfectness except that of life. The limbs droop toward the earth; one by one they drop. The wind gets but little hold upon it; its perfect perpendicularity prevents for a long time a fall; and when at last it comes down, it readily gives all the substance it wrought from inanimate to animate matter to the nourishment of others of its kind. Indeed, while they stand they give their dead limbs to nourish the most beautiful parasitical mosses, which add another rare glory of color to the forest. These trees put out their limbs in successive circles round the trunk. When the lower limbs become dead and drop because of the life ascending toward the sunshine, the most vividly colored light-green moss makes complete circles at regular intervals about the trunks.

From what little seeds these immensities of life have come! They were scarcely able to appropriate an ounce of matter on their one or two little twigs for a whole year; a bird might have destroyed their young life; but in later years they were able to appropriate hundreds of pounds on their countless branches. There is a

kind of geometrical ratio of growth. What a wonderful thing is life! Below are clays, rocks and water; above are sunshine and air; between is a living thing built up of particles after a divine ideal, no particle laid outside of a regular plan, and all this monument of life transmuted from mineral to vegetable by the power, one might almost say intelligence, of a speck of life too small to be seen. Any life can levy on the universe for means of its development. Yet within this regular plan life frolics and plays in strange varieties. Beneath the bark of this king of the pines, the sugar pine (*P. Lambertiana*), the grain is a series of curves set at regular angles, as if the concentric surroundings of thousands of knots were ideally produced in the substance of the wood. Beneath the bark of the curly maple the currents of life are full of little eddies like dimples consciously produced on the face of beauty. The mazanilla makes color that glows under polish like a ruby. Some woods show a contrast of colors between sap and bark that is almost barbaric, and some are as well harmonized as the shades of a Quakeress' dress. Right along-side of a tree perfectly straight-grained stands one whose every channel of sap is curved into a line of grace like the ringlets that curtain the face of the painter's ideal of beauty. Some of these trees began to be centuries ago, and ever since without pause the vast force of aggregation has been continued. Representatives of centuries, the child of yesterday uncovers with reverence in your presence! Yet he envies not your years, for the eternal years of God are his. Decay is decreed for you, but he shall flourish in immortal youth, unburied amid the war of elements, the wreck of matter, and the crash of worlds!

Here in the silence of the forest the lesson is taught that the Author of life thinks it worth while that life should ceaselessly work in unobserved quiet for so many centuries to build up such a simple thing as a tree. There is a little lumber, a little firewood in it for the comfort of man, scarcely valued here, but there are ends to be subserved, we know not of, that justify this patient development. So Abraham grew great, he knew not for what, in the loneliness of the eastern desert; so Moses grew great about the base of Horeb; so Paul had his three years in Arabia, and Christ His forty days in the wilderness. The meaneast flower that blows, and the greatest mass of life that can be built in a thousand years, brings thoughts that lie too deep for any expression, even that of tears.

Yet even this seemingly frail tree has a strange persistence of being. The bog oak has been buried we know not how long in Ireland. It is one of the great industries of New Jersey to mine the swamps for timber of vast trees that lie buried, often three or four deep, where the conditions of life to-day cannot produce anything worth calling a tree.

I am glad that live trees are a part of the symbolism by which God seeks to portray in the world to come the force of aggregation, approbation and arrangement—the results of life through thousands of years, the kindly service of feeding and healing others at the cost of only a leaf to the healer.

THE MORALIST'S IMMORTALITY.
BY REV. MARCUS D. BUELL.

The moralist of the nineteenth century stumbles at Christ's doctrine of sin quite as conspicuously as did his kinsman of the first century. It is matter for scorn, if not of grief, to be told that a life-long keeping of the second table of commandments leaves one lacking. Christ did not, in fact, say what one would expect Him to say. The Spirit would reprove the world of—well—larceny, lying, arson, of piracy, embezzlement, blackmail, of train-wrecking, highway robbery, and the devouring of widows' houses. Nay, verily, "of sin, because they believe not on Me."

Gainsayers of the Gospel put forward with much show of confidence the "good man" who is not a Christian. If the phrase means anything, it means goodness in relation to per-

sons. It is a good father, captain, or mother that is in mind, and the goodness in question is the due respect that is paid to the peculiar rights of certain persons included in those relations. The ship-captain is good because he is impartial to his men, the father and mother because they are devoted and self-denying to their children. What rare types, indeed, of perfect obedience to obligation that relation of mother and child has furnished the world! Quite as often, too, the familiar term includes a man's bearing towards individuals beyond the domestic hearth. The good man is a good neighbor and citizen, that is, devout to the suggestions of charity, and reverential towards the obligations of citizenship.

Now, plainly enough, the more intimate these personal relations are, the more complex and commanding are the obligations that grow out of them. The man who met me gruffly in his business place is, I am assured, a gentle husband and tender father. Be it so, the bond is closer. The young man who grudges to walk one mile with the gray-haired mother who is everything to him, but gladly goes twain with the young lady who is nothing to him, common judgment has somewhat against. Not what Henry VIII was to the English people, does posterity ask, but what to Wolsey and Anne Boleyn? The world was not ready to judge Carlyle, because it already knew what he was to the public; it waited to learn what he was to Jane Welsh. It is a veritable law of human nature: Character is tested by relations, but especially by intimate relations to persons. This is the moralist's great white throne, and with him we hasten to kneel before it.

To the "good man," however, as to all others, is such a remarkable relation with a most august Person. His origin, His understanding, His moral perfection, His rare devotion to humanity, combine to make him a unique character among men. Though He was in the beginning with God, and was God, He has come in the flesh and dwelt on the earth. The "good man" knows no other person so thoroughly as he knows this Christ of his. His mother's lullaby woke curiosity about Him, and study and meditation have gone on until the history of Jesus is as familiar as his own history. In realms of secret thought whether wife, nor child, nor intimate friend ever penetrated—veritable upper rooms of the spirit where the doors are shut—this inevitable Companion of the soul has made His appearance. With Him as Elder Brother, Prince, Redeemer, Saviour, relations have got themselves established that are more momentous, sacred and commanding than any other known among men.

There is everything in the moralist's basal principle, or nothing. If my neighbor over the way furnishes a touch-stone to my character, much more does my Saviour. The piercing question of the judgment day, therefore, will be the current and familiar one, What has this man been toward the one that is most to him?

Now, the moralist's rejection of Christ is of the precise nature of the immorality of which he is so careful to wash his hands. Does he admit Christ's peculiar relations to the Father and the eternal world? He does. He is ready to confess with Nicodemus that he is a Teacher come from God. But this Teacher's doctrine has most radical features. It makes instant and entire submission to Christ the condition of eternal life. It demands an unreserved recognition of His authority and divine dignity. Americans are just now paying their homage to the intelligence of a distinguished English author now visiting these shores. Indifference or coldness towards him would have been quite as significant as the cordial reception that has been accorded to him. Indifference and silent neglect of Christ are a Godward immorality quite as heinous as any possible manward immorality. Such ignoring of the Son of God is indeed a matter-of-fact repetition of the infamous accusation, "Thou art beside thyself." When a man bursts in with the announcement that the house is afire,

the inmates will do one of two things: They will start up to fight the fire, or else charge the intruder with lying. Such is the dilemma of the moralist (the man who intends to accord to every person his just due in his dealings with Jesus Christ). He chooses the alternative of unbelief, even though it give the lie to Him in whose mouth is no guile. It is the alternative that the Scribes chose. Submit to Messiah they would not; consistency, therefore, compelled them to say that He was a bad man in league with Beelzebub. It is said that such desperadoes as Billy the Kid and Jesse and Frank James have small hands and mild eyes. We like our moralist's one hundred cents on the dollar, his tender-eyed charity, his ready faith in the fallible word, but we marvel at his cruel unbelief toward One infinitely worthier of trust and credence than we.

But the un-Christian moralist is most immoral in the treatment he gives to God's love in Christ. Truth has suffered much in this forlorn world, but love far more. Like the astronomer's glass, nothing pierces farther, and nothing is more easily injured. A Boston newspaper tells how love blossomed awhile ago in a woman's heart. In a casement opposite the prison where her husband was confined, it placed a vase of fresh flowers every day. Shakespeare makes love take a woman farther than prison bars, even into a noisome charnel house. Divine love does more than visit the prison and pest-house of our unwetted human nature; it goes to the scaffold and felon's grave for us. Love, so grand and daring, rightly claims recognition. Nothing so fairs the angel, foils the enterprise, and thwarts the gracious purposes of love as slight or neglect. Our moralist tells us a story out of Dutch history. Dirk Willemzoon, Anabaptist, pursued by a magistrate, ventures on the tender ice of a lake, and spite the creaking and groaning of the brittle fabric, gains the further shore in safety; but the magistrate, essaying to follow suit, breaks through and is like to drown. The death-cry the conscientious Hollander cannot abide, and at imminent risk of life, retraces his trembling steps, and rescues his pursuer. Safe on shore, the magistrate arrests his rescuer, and shortly after, with intolerable torture, he is burned at the stake. A species of man's ingratitude to man this, to make one's blood boil now after these three hundred years. A famous keeper of civil laws this magistrate, but what of his breach of holy and unwritten laws, that demand the requital of love? And what plea more wretched in the face of love's Great Sacrifice, than to say: All these—laws of neighborhood and citizenship—have I kept from my youth up? Well did Jesus therefore say that the Spirit's reproof of the world will be that they believe not in Christ.

Hartford, Conn.

CENTENNIAL OF '84.

BY REV. E. WENTWORTH, D. D.

Both General and Annual Conferences propose suitable celebration of the denominational birth-year of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The forty-one Conferences that hold their sessions between the opening week of January and mid-April—at least, so many of them as are on American soil—will devote some time and attention to speech-making, and, perhaps, to provision for some form of monumental commemoration in the shape of funds collected for special purposes. Grateful givers may wish to give direction to their contributions; some will give to foreign missions, some to domestic, some to colored aid, some to church-debt paying. So that the money is given, we need not be squeamish about the object selected, as all these benevolences are sufficiently worthy and sufficiently needy. Two or three questions are prominent. One is, How much shall we aim to raise? Second, How shall we dispose of that portion of the contributions to which the donors give no specific direction? Thirdly, When shall a grand and universal effort be put forth to lay the foundation, and raise to the cap-stone, of our grand natal-year monument?

There are four hundred millionaires in the city of New York alone. Millionaires are no novelty in our prosperous country, from Massachusetts to California. Some of these millionaires are Methodists. Liberal offerings may be expected from these in centennial '84.

If a jubilee offering, commensurate with the ability and grandeur of a church with nearly 2,000,000 members, and a constituency of several millions besides, were to be forthcoming, we should realize not less than ten million dollars.

This is the least sum that a denomination of the size and wealth of ours should content itself with on this centennial occasion. Hundred-thousand-dollar contributions and donations to this benevolence and that, are of constant occurrence, noted as matters of no special surprise, because of their frequency, in the periodicals of the day. Are there not at least ten such in all the broad borders of Methodism? It would take but ten of these to make a million of dollars. From this possibility as a basis let us tabulate, and see what may be reasonably expected.

| giving | \$1,000 each | \$100,000,000 |
|-----------|--------------|---------------|
| 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000,000 |
| 5,000 | 500 | 2,500,000 |
| 10,000 | 100 | 1,000,000 |
| 50,000 | 20 | 2,500,000 |
| 100,000 | 10 | 1,000,000 |
| 500,000 | 2 | 2,500,000 |
| 1,000,000 | 1 | 1,000,000 |

Beside liberal offerings from the rich and well-to-do, centennial record books should be provided, in which are registered, in his and her own hand, the name of every man, woman and child attendant upon any and every Methodist congregation in the connection, with some sum by way of offering, according to willingness or ability, affixed to each name, from five cents upward, the record book to be preserved in the archives of each church, with other important documents, for posterity to look at. Large liberty should be left to donors as to the objects they wish to patronize. This may be secured by the publishing houses furnishing blank books of uniform size and of varying thickness to accommodate large and small churches, ruled somewhat as follows:—

| Name. | Amount. | Object. |
|------------------|---------|----------------|
| John Smith, | \$50.00 | Education. |
| Mrs. J. Smith, | 50.00 | Woman's Miss. |
| John Smith, Jr., | 50.00 | Superannuates. |
| John Brown, | 1.00 | " |
| Mrs. J. Brown, | .50 | " |
| John Brown, Jr., | .50 | " |

Under the head "object" may be inserted church extension, church-debt paying, aid to local institutions. Some propose wiping out church debts. It would take \$5,000,000 for that object alone. Some propose a fund for superannuates. This would be well, provided the creation of such a fund did not interfere with or destroy the annual collections for this purpose. It would take a large and well-invested capital to realize \$100,000 a year income for this church indebtedness, and this would not average \$100 per man to the present list of superannuates.

Five millions raised and expended at once would hardly get out of debt and set on their feet our fifty colleges and as many debt-spavined Conference seminaries, leaving nothing to invest by way of permanent endowment. It must be for the wisdom of the coming General Conference to devise modes of raising funds, and the best modes of expending amounts raised, on an occasion upon which the eyes of the whole world will rest with interest.

The best time for a popular boom in this matter is evidently the autumn of 1884. On the 2d of September, 1784, Mr. Wesley appointed Dr. Coke permanent superintendent of the work in America, with power to ordain others, and thus set the American Methodist Church on an independent foundation. On the 27th of the following December, Dr. Coke ordained Asbury co-superintendent, and the church order was adopted under which we have thrived for a century. Between the first of September, 1884, and the first of January, 1885, public meetings should be held in every charge in Methodism, and speakers, lay and clerical, should make the people acquainted with our origin, history and present status. Jubilees were common in Judaism; they have been, and are, common in the Church of Rome. We had one in common with the Methodist world in 1839; in common with American Methodism in 1866. Our third grand denominational jubilee is at the door. It is to be a memorable occasion, signalizes a memorable era, and should be made a year to be remembered for a century to come. As the Luther natal day roused all Germany, and all Protestantism, to an unprecedented pitch of enthusiasm, so ought the natal year of Episcopal Methodism in America to raise similar enthusiasm and eventuate in creating lasting monuments to the memory of the grand occasion.

Hartford, Conn.

WORK FOR THE GENERAL CONFERENCE.

BY REV. JAMES MUDDO.

Will the next General Conference find any time, or show any inclination, to take up the rearrangement of our great connectional societies or benevolent interests? In the judgment of very many, there are few topics more worthy of highest consideration than this. The benevolent societies of the church have sprung up one after another from time to time as the exigencies of the hour seemed to call. They have done good work, and are still doing it. But that more and better work might be done, with some modifications of the present

agencies, is becoming steadily clearer to a large number of minds.

Has not the time fully come when a statesmanlike hand should be put forth to readjust these various societies both to the exact needs of the present day and to one another? Probably nobody is fully satisfied that we have at present the wisest plan, or the most convenient and comprehensive system. Why should it be left to drift on longer in the haphazard, clumsy manner now in vogue? Could the General Conference better spend a portion of its time and strength than in manfully grappling with the practical difficulties involved in a carefully-considered, thorough-going scheme of improvement?

For one thing, there is loud call, well voiced in a recent *Christian Advocate* article, for the construction of a Board of Publication, to include the present Book Concern, Sunday School Union, and Tract Society. It is well argued that we have no distinct need for these two latter societies in their present form, and that the M. E. Church as now organized is not doing all that it should, all that it could with other arrangements, to put the best literature into the hands of the people.

There is a still louder call for a Home Missionary Society, to include the Freedmen's Aid Society and the home work of the general Missionary Society. That the M. E. Church is doing only a small part of what it ought in the cause of missions, that its contributions are disgracefully small when compared not only with the demands of the whitening fields, but even with the amounts gathered by other churches, and that there is pressing need for something to be done, everybody admits. In our view, the main part of this something is nothing less than a division of the Society into Foreign and Home Boards, each fully equipped with an ample secretariat and all proper appliances for instructing and inspiring the people. That this arrangement would be every way fairer to the donors, and would result in greatly increased contributions for both departments, we firmly believe. The million dollars which has been so long the wished-for goal in the yearly summaries, but which there seems no likelihood of reaching on the present plan, notwithstanding the vast increase of both church and country in numbers and wealth, would come with a bound and be soon overpassed, as indeed it ought, if a different system were inaugurated. At least, so it seems to many. The friends of home missions would have a clear field for the urging of their cause and setting before the people the wants of that side, as they have not now, and there is every reason to suppose that the response would be greater. So, too, the friends of foreign missions would feel that greater justice was done them, and that the "heaven in his blindness" was not being used to get money out of the pockets of the ignorant under false pretences. A change in the present plan is demanded by simple justice, as well as by far-sighted policy.

Probably all this has been often said in one form or another. Perhaps when it has been said often enough and loud enough, those in authority will give it heed and proceed to do. It seems to the writer that the doing has been already too long postponed. If not, why not?

W. L. Carter, of 1884, is of the same general style with the Emerson and Longfellow Calendars, which have proved very acceptable to a multitude of admirers of those authors. The selections for the Whittier Calendar have been made from Mr. Whittier's poems and prose writings with similar skill and care. The design of the Calendar for the year represents graphically certain leading features of Mr. Whittier's writings, by which these are most strongly commended to the admiration and love of American readers. It will be a much-prized ornament in many thousands of homes, which will be brighter and happier for its daily words of wisdom. The price is the same as that of the Longfellow and Emerson Calendars (\$1), and it is published by Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston.

The International News Company of New York have imported for holiday sales editions of the Christmas issues of the *London News and Graphic*. These papers are greatly enlarged in the number of their pages and profusely illustrated with fine engravings and full-page colored pictures. They are characteristically English, and form a pleasant and amusing study.

The *Elevator*, published weekly in Atlanta, Ga., by the students of Clark University, is an honor to the institution and to the bright-witted and earnest editors and contributors. Its issue of Dec. 8 has a handsome picture of Gammon Hall—the theological school edifice—which is to be dedicated Dec. 18. Bishops Warren, Foss and Dr. Rust are announced to be present. The Atlanta institution is in reality becoming a university, with facilities in the various departments of learning, academic and professional. Not the least important is its admirably-arranged industrial instruction—agricultural, mechanical and domestic.

We have received a copy of *The Arkansas Forest and Farm*—a very neatly-published paper, issued from Little Rock, Ark. It contains a well-executed cut of the town, with the fine building of the Little Rock University, under the care of our church, lately dedicated, standing on a very conspicuous site. President E. S. Lewis gives an interesting account of its establishment and educational appointments in the paper.

BY REV. W. O. HOLWAY, U. S. N.

II. Lesson Analysis.

7. The topic of LESSON 7 (1 Samuel 16: 1-13) was, "David Anointed." Samuel's bitter grief for the rejected Saul and his son Jonathan was so great that he and his horn with oil and go to Bethlehem and there anoint one of the sons of Jesse. Expressing fear of the king's wrath, he was told to take a helper and invite the family of Jesse to a sacrifice. The alarm of the elders at his arrival in Bethlehem was quieted by his announcement, and they with Jesse's family were invited. Neither of the seven sons of Jesse satisfied the divine inspection, which looked not to stature but to the heart. David, the youngest, came suddenly forth from the flock and was then sent for to the field as Samuel, following the divine intimation, anointed him among his brethren, no present probably, excepting Samuel, understanding the significance of the anointing.

16. What directions were given to Samson?
17. Where were the Israelites assembled to select a king?
18. Of what were they first reminded?
19. How was the king selected?
20. Who was chosen, and how did he behave?
21. How was he received by the people?
22. What led to the anointing of Samson king?
23. Where was the ceremony performed?
24. What else took place immediately after?
25. By what physical portent were the people impressed with their sinfulness in asking for a king?
26. What assurance and promise did Samson give?
27. What commission was given to Samson (Lesson VI)?
28. How did he obey it?
29. What sentence was pronounced on him in consequence of, and by whom?

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"Of all the papers taken by me, none is read with greater interest and profit than ZION'S HERALD. It is a constant inspiration to the highest and best Christian living. My wife and children welcome its coming and devour its contents from week to week with a keen relish. We are in constant receipt of similar testimonies. Will our readers speak of the merits of the paper to their neighbors, that they may take advantage of the publisher's liberal offer to new subscribers?"

Zion's Herald.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 19, 1883.

That our Missionary Committee, lately adjourned, did not abandon the Bulgarian field, and did not withhold reinforcements from Rosario, though the discussion for these retrogressive steps was prolonged and strenuous, is matter of thankfulness to every loyal Methodist. It is a sad act to haul down the banner of the King. Our Board has never been compelled to it, for permanence, but once in its history; and the success of other Christian forces on the field it retreated from, has produced a lasting regret that we were not able to hold it. The abandonment of a mission is morally so doubtful a step that the instances are rare when it should even be considered. The Moravians, the most successful, relatively, of modern missionaries, have been characterized by an indomitable perseverance in their work. Their most successful missions required six, ten, twenty-four years for the planting. Even their failures illustrate their tenacity. Thus after twenty-six years of steadfast opposition from the government and the Dutch clergy of Ceylon, they departed for more auspicious fields. After fifty years given to the Kalmucks of Eastern Russia, without results, they directed their efforts elsewhere in the empire. Twenty-one fruitless years in Tranquebar, Coromandel, decided them to go elsewhere. Their lack of worldly wisdom has occasionally led them to an injudicious selection of missionary ground; but the infrequency of their retreats is noteworthy, through a missionary history of a hundred and fifty years.

Mr. Thomas, colleague of Carey, in India, waited seventeen years for his first convert. His joy over this trophy drove him insane. But he recovered, and preached the Word with more ardor than ever. After six years of tireless, but apparently fruitless, diligence in Burmah, Dr. Judson was asked of the prospects there. "They are sure as the promises of God," replied that hero of the Christian host.

The most remarkable instance in later years of deferred, but final, triumph on mission ground, is the work among the Teluguos, a people numbering some eighteen millions, on the west coast of the Bay of Bengal. As early as 1805 the London Missionary Society had sent out missionaries to this people, but unwisely and hastily abandoned the ground. A grammar and dictionary of the Telugu language were prepared, however, by the Serampore missionaries; and some efforts at circulating fragments of religious literature among the people had been made, when in 1835 two missionaries arrived among them from the American Baptist Union. Their prospects for success were blighted by a series of misfortunes running through ten years; at the close of which time the question was raised in the annual meeting of the Board: "Shall the mission be abandoned?" It would have probably been answered in the affirmative but for the presence of Dr. Judson, who, in feebleness of health, scarcely able to speak even in a whisper, but with an earnest, pleading countenance, said: "I would cheerfully cross the Bay of Bengal, and learn a new language at my age, rather than lift my hand for the abandonment of that work." Such a presence and such words could not be withstood. The mission was not abandoned, nor was it re-nounced. Year after year, however,

the question of its continuance was discussed in the Board. The ill-health of the missionaries, the indifference of the Teluguos, were causes of continued discouragement. In 1848, a party of three from the central station made a journey to Ongole, a town containing six thousand Teluguos, and preached in the city, where they were reviled and stoned for Christ's sake. In the evening, bruised and weary of heart, they ascended a hill overlooking the town, and having sung a hymn, they prayed for a missionary to be sent to the place. Twelve years later, years of fluctuating fortunes for the Teluguos field, a missionary was sent to Ongole, and thus the prayer on "Prayer-meeting Hill" was answered. A church of eight members was formed there. In the seven succeeding years this nucleus grew to 3,800 members—one of the three largest Baptist societies in the world. The ground thoroughly sown with Gospel seed, thoroughly watered with Christian tears, gave in due time an abundant harvest. From all parts of the country came the people "to learn about Jesus" and begging for teachers. The report of the Board for 1873 reads that "the smile of God rests upon the entire field of our Teluguos work." In the midst of this success, calamity came in the form of famine, pestilence, flood, and a second famine. The people were reduced to one meal in three days, and this through a period of months. The philanthropy of the missionaries assumed a more material character. They were made government agents in dispensing relief, and thus widely increased their influence. Their record to-day is of souls from thirty to fifty thousand won to Christ, and their stations are among the best equipped, the most thoroughly Christianized, of foreign fields. But if, in any one of those twenty years in which the question of abandonment of the Teluguos was debated, the Board had assented, what would have become of those fifty thousand souls? The lesson is one that should be remembered by all missionary-supporting Christians.

THE FALSE PROPHET.

Public attention is constantly turned now, by daily despatches from Europe, to the great southern province of Egypt bearing the general title of Sudan. It embraces a wide but not a very distinctly-defined territory, south of the second cataract of the Nile, lying on both sides of the river, comprising Nubia, Sennar, Kordofan and Darfur—a province some fifteen hundred miles from north to south, and from twelve to fourteen hundred miles wide from the Red Sea to the limits of Darfur—an immense territory over which the late rulers of Egypt have exercised but little more than a nominal authority. This sovereignty commenced in the reign of Muhammad Ali. Before that, as our old geographies show, it had been divided among a number of tribes into small provinces. Ismail, son of Muhammad, subdued these different principalities and held the military government of the country. The capital of the vast province is Khartoum, situated at the junction of the Blue and White Nile, now threatened by the False Prophet and his forces. It is some fifteen hundred miles distant by the river from Cairo. The northern portion of this territory is inhabited by nomadic Arabs, all of whom are pronounced Mussulmans. The southern portion of the province is inhabited by negroes who give name to the country; the Arabic title—"Balad-us-Sudan"—signifying the country of the blacks. The chief interest that outside Christian nations have had in the supremacy of Egypt over this broad province is the effort to break up the slave trade among the negro tribes, which the Egyptian government has seriously attempted, although with limited success, and the partial protection which has been afforded to discoverers and missionaries seeking to open up the mysteries of the upper Nile and the central portions of Africa, and to bear the good tidings of the Gospel to these benighted tribes.

For two or three years we have heard, from time to time, of Mahdi, the False Prophet. Now he has become famous, or rather infamous, in the destruction of Hicks Pasha's army. We gather from our English exchanges some interesting incidents in his life.

This man is an Arab, at least on the side of one parent; his true name being Muhammad Ahmad. He was a native of Nubia, and the son of a carpenter. Apprenticed to his uncle, a boatman, and having been punished (probably deservedly), he ran away to the capital of the province, Khartoum. Here he became a disciple of a noted fakih, a learned man, who was attached to the tomb of the patron saint of the district, and who was held in great reverence. Having completed his studies, he was made a fakih. This was in 1870. Upon this he took up his residence in the island of Abba, in the White Nile. He lived here in a subterranean retreat for ten years, devoting himself to prayer, fasting and incense burning. Very naturally his fame for sanctity spread far and wide. Offerings began to be brought to him, and he rapidly increased in wealth.

His life as a devotee soon came to an end. He gathered about him a harem from the families of leading fakihis, and began to intimate to the Mohammedan saints and chiefs about him that he was a man of destiny and had a mission. This was in 1881. Although some of the fakihis refused to acknowledge his authority, others yielded and joined him with their disciples. He declared that his divinely-commissioned office was to establish universal equality, a common religion and law, and an equal division of property. Lieut.-Col. Stewart, from whose report, made not long since to the English government, many of these facts are obtained, describes the False Prophet as tall and slim, with a black beard and a light brown complexion. He has some literary culture. He is connected with one of the most powerful Mohammedan fraternities, having branches in Tunis and elsewhere in North Africa, which gives France a lively interest in his present victorious campaign, as threatening her newly-acquired African provinces.

He made his first attack upon the Egyptian forces in 1882, overcoming the army of 6,000 under Yusuf Pasha, and submitting the captured force to a remorseless massacre. He was afterwards defeated, his army destroyed, and he was driven back to the province whence he started. Last January, however, having gathered another host of followers, he seized the important stronghold of El Obeid, the capital of the Kordofan province, and has since continued to threaten the lower provinces. General Hicks, last August, was sent to command the Egyptian forces against this growing and serious rebellion. His purpose was to lead his army at once to El Obeid and destroy what had become the headquarters and capital of the False Prophet. But little doubt was felt in Egypt, or outside of its borders, but that so skillful a general, with a regularly-organized army, would soon accomplish this object. A desert travel by an army, poorly supplied with water, of two hundred and fifty miles, which was requisite, rendered the campaign one of great suffering. Somewhere about the first of November, the army reached the vicinity of El Obeid. Gen. Hicks had with him a number of European officers, with the correspondents and artists of English newspapers. Every preparation was made to describe the expected victory. On the 24, 25 and 26th of November the battle opened, and continued. The forces of the False Prophet greatly outnumbered those of Gen. Hicks. The ammunition of the Egyptian army failed. They were finally surrounded and cut to pieces, but few succeeding in escaping to tell the sad story of the defeat. The last despatches say that the body of the unfortunate Gen. Hicks was found, one hand grasping his sword, the other his revolver. No cartridges were left when his army yielded.

This victory fairly opened the whole province to Mahdi, greatly enhancing his reputation, and calling to his banner large numbers of Arab and negro recruits. A second serious battle has since been fought, in which the Egyptians were again defeated and suffered great losses. Khartoum, the capital of the province, was supposed to be seriously threatened, although the last despatches represent Mahdi as falling back to El Obeid. It certainly looks now as if the promised English evacuation of Egypt would not be likely to take place at an early date, and that the intervention of her forces would be again required to preserve the country from a more disastrous rebellion than the one which has just been subdued. Some anxiety has been felt lest this movement, inspired by Mohammedan fanaticism, might extend not only to the French colonies in Africa, but to the thousands of devoted followers of the Arabian prophet in India. This is a day when history is rapidly made, and the geography of the nations at times suddenly changed. The probability, however, is, that more vigorous measures will at once be taken. The Egyptian ruler has English advisers; her subsidy, if necessary, will not be delayed; and it will be only a question of a limited time before the audacious and now over-confident leader of a barbarous host will meet his deserved punishment and fate.

LESSONS FROM THE DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS.

To the annual review of national affairs, given in the President's Message, the reports of the various secretaries form an extended and admirable appendix, affording a large amount of detailed and valuable information on the industrial, monetary, economic, military and commercial affairs of the Republic. To a few of the items of popular interest contained therein we here invite attention.

Of all these departments of the executive government, the Post Office, as daily

ministering to their wants, comes nearest home to the people. Other parts of the public service touch us indirectly; the Post Office touches us constantly, and ministers to our increasing need of communication. The extent of the service is becoming somewhat amazing. A network of postal routes and offices extends from end to end of the country; the work is rapid and safe. The total number of offices in the country is now 47,863, an increase of 1,632 over the preceding year. There are 69,020 persons employed in the service, including the department clerks and employees. At the 154 free delivery offices there are employed 3,680 carriers. The number of letters delivered during the fiscal year was 312,013,750—an increase of 14 per cent. over the former year; postal cards, 86,133,228—an increase of 20 per cent.; local or drop letters, 104,437,146—an increase of 16 per cent.; local postal cards, 60,472,193—an increase of 19 per cent.; registered letters, 2,830,203—an increase of 10 per cent.; newspapers, 203,568,005—an increase of 4 per cent. The entire number of pieces handled during the year was 1,324,637,701—an increase over the preceding year of 16 per cent.

The number of presidential postmasters is 2,195, with an aggregate of salaries of \$3,750,000. The number of offices supplied by mail messengers is 5,160; the star service extends over 77,998,782 miles, at a cost of \$4,739,478; there are 998 railway postal lines, and there are 5,937 money-order offices.

The revenues of the service for the year ending June 30, 1883, were \$45,508,692.91; the expenditures for the same period were \$42,816,700.56; leaving a balance in the treasury to meet outstanding claims of \$2,691,992.05. Deduct the estimated amount of outstanding claims of \$775,000, and we have a balance of \$1,916,992.05. After subtracting \$710,000 for Pacific Railroad service, there still remains a net surplus over all claims of \$1,001,992.05 in the treasury, which makes a good showing for the department. Could private enterprise have done better?

How far the reduction of the rate of postage will diminish the revenue for the current year, is not known. There are some facts that induce the Postmaster General to think the reduction will not be great. On the one hand the business of the country is rapidly increasing, and this has caused a corresponding increase in that of the Post Office; and, on the other, the increase of matter in the mails does not cause a corresponding increase in the expense. So content is the Postmaster General of an abundant revenue, that he recommends further reduction of rates. Instead of a half ounce as at present, he proposes, as the unit of weight for letters, an ounce; and for transient papers, three instead of two ounces. On the other hand, he opposes the reduction on drop letters to one cent, on the ground that the carrier service would in that way become an expense to the department. In this matter the President is in advance of his subordinate; he urges the change.

But the most interesting feature of the report is that bearing on postal telegraphy. In our day the telegraph has come to do an important and large part of the service once performed by the mail, and it would seem to be a dictate of common-sense that this arm should be brought under similar regulations so as to subserve in the cheapest and best way the public needs. That Congress has the right to assume control of the telegraph, the Postmaster General concedes; he does not quite see that it would be wise for Congress to interfere in this matter with private enterprise. If the argument be a sound one, it is equally applicable to the postal service. A great department is placed quite outside of private enterprise, because we believe the work can be better performed by the government; but every consideration that would induce the government to run the post-office department would urge its control of the telegraph. It is a hopeful sign that the President is here in advance of his secretary; he thinks the general government should assume the same control over the telegraph which it has always exercised over the mail.

As to the mode in which such control could be best exercised, the President is not so clear. Both he and his subordinate are opposed to the purchase of existing lines. Neither would they approve of the construction of new lines for general competition with the private companies. As a feasible plan for subserving the interests of the department, and through it of the people, he suggests the construction of main lines from Washington to the various State capitals with radiations from those centres to outlying sections as the mail service might demand. This plan would be very satisfactory; but one fails to see how it would escape interference with private enterprise. If the government could run it cheaper and do better work, they would inevitably secure the bulk of the public patronage. In fact, we see no half-way place for the telegraph more than for the mail service. If the government needs to control the mail, as a means of conveying intelligence, it needs equally to control the telegraph. The telegraph is but a new department of the Post Office, and as such it must ere long come under the sway of the government.

The appropriation for the Navy for the year ending June 30, 1883, was \$16,399,427.20, and the expenditures were \$2,795,937.79 less than the amount allowed. The estimates for the current year are \$16,319,307.76 for current expenses, and \$7,449,581.62 for building new ships.

Both the President and Secretary urge the reconstruction of the Navy to meet the most recent demands of naval warfare. The introduction of monitors and rifled cannon with armored vessels renders the navies of the recent past almost entirely useless. To secure this end, three cruisers are in process of construction—the Chicago of 4,500 tons, the Boston and Atlanta of 2,500 tons

each. They are to be built of steel, and in speed, endurance and armament to compare favorably with the best unarmored vessels of other nations. The double-turreted monitors Puritan, Amphitrite, Terror and Monadnock were launched, the three former in the Delaware, and the latter at San Francisco. The construction of seven other unarmored steel cruisers is recommended. Our naval progress must depend upon the revival of our merchant steam marine. The carrying trade of the world is now performed in fast steamers, and to be able to compete in this, we should at once establish steamship lines to Europe and South America, to be subsidized by government. It is also thought desirable to strengthen the water defenses along the Atlantic coast, as well as to annex to the Navy Department the light-house administrations, the coast survey, the hydrographic survey, the revenue marine, and the life-saving service.

Of claims, during the past year, against the United States, 80 cases were brought to trial and 51 dismissed from court. In the 80 suits there were involved \$5,727,427.75. In 44 of these claims, amounting to \$2,834,224.90, judgment was rendered for the defendants; and in 36, amounting to \$893,247.85, judgment favored the claimants.

The expenses of the Department of Justice for the year was \$5,000,000. Utah has refused for years to pay for the execution of justice within her borders, thus leaving \$26,000 to be paid by the United States.

From the report of the Comptroller of the Currency, we learn that the total number of banks in the country is 7,448, with a capital of \$717,318,822 and total deposits of \$2,902,522,245. Two hundred and sixty-two banks have been organized the past year, with a capital of \$28,654,350 and a circulation of \$7,909,190. To avoid the contraction of the currency from the rapid payment of the bonds, legislation is asked to continue them in use as a basis for national bank circulation. More than 1,700 millions of the five and six per cent. bonds have been replaced by fours and three-and-a-half, while during the last two years 570 millions of the three-and-a-half per cent. have been either paid, converted into threes, or refunded, and what is a strange thing for a nation that was on the verge of bankruptcy twenty years ago, the treasury is embarrassed, not for the want of funds with which to pay the expenses of the government, but with a revenue greater than it needs and greater than it can judiciously disburse.

Of gold and bullion in the country there are 581, silver coin 242, legal tender notes 564, national bank notes 352, millions—total, \$1,523,366,989. The interest-bearing bonded debt of the United States is \$1,273,475,450, with an average rate of interest of three and a half per cent. From their organization 89 national banks have been placed in the hands of receivers, and 460 have voluntarily closed, with a loss to creditors in the twenty years, of \$7,000,000, or about \$400,000 a year, for the whole country, which is not large for so great a bulk of business.

Boston Wesleyan Association.

The annual meeting of the Wesleyan Association has become, in later years, a very pleasant occasion, and the one enjoyed last Wednesday was one of the most grateful of them all. The day was a remarkably comfortable one for the season. All but three members of the Association were present; two of these were sick, and one was actively engaged in sustaining his pastor in one of the most inspiring revivals of religion in a historical church, of a neighboring city. The absence of Mr. James P. Magee, the treasurer of the Association, for the first time since becoming a member, on account of his delicate health, awakened much regret, and called forth a hearty expression of sympathy. The only dash in the Association during the year has been that of the greatly-esteemed and lamented Mr. Edwin Ray.

The president for the past year, who presided with great ease and dignity during the session, was the oldest surviving member of the Association—Hon. Jacob Sleeper. Bishop Foster had counted on being present, but was detained at home by a heavy and persistent cold. Dr. Warren, of Boston University, was a guest, and made a capital speech at the table.

The records of the Board and of the meetings of the directors during the year, which were read, showed how thorough is the supervision of every department of the business of the Association, and the reports of the treasurer and agent exhibited a successful year with both the rents of the building and the patronage of the paper. At the close of the coming year there is every reason to expect that there will only remain upon the property a mortgage of \$200,000, while, without doubt, it is worth \$150,000 above this amount, and the remaining mortgage will be annually reduced. The property is thus placed beyond peril, and is, at once, a conspicuous and convenient source of revenue for the New England Methodist churches, and, in a comparatively limited period, will be a source of large revenue to be used for denominational interests. It is already, indirectly, contributing a considerable sum annually to the general benefit of the church.

All the representatives from the patronizing Conferences, with the exception of Rev. E. Edson, of the New England Southern Conference, were present—Rev. W. H. Williams, of Belfast, from the East Maine; Rev. G. D. Lindsay, of Portland, from the Maine; Rev. D. C. Knowles, of Plymouth, from the New Hampshire; Rev. A. B. Truax, of Brattleboro, from the Vermont; and Dr. J. H. Twombly, of Gardner, from the New England Conference.

The meeting opened with singing and prayer led by Dr. Twombly, and after the reading of the records, the reports of the officers of the Board and the editor, and the election of officers for the ensuing year, the Association with its guests adjourned to the main hall for the usual bountiful refreshments of the occasion. Abundant time having been given to the discussion of these and to pleasant social conversation, President Sleeper, in an appropriate address, introduced the guests from the Conferences, and invited, cordially, their suggestions and criticisms in reference to the interests and management of the paper under their patronage. The brethren responded frankly, warmly and at length, expressing their own hearty appreciation of the noble work of the Association, of the official paper which had now passed its threescore years of existence, and also proffered their own and such other suggestions as they

had heard in reference to the best measures for increasing its interest and widening its patronage. The speeches from Conference representatives have never been more interesting or practical than on last Wednesday evening. The suggestions have been received in the spirit in which they were uttered, and good results may be hoped for in the future.

Every thoughtful person familiar with the history of the paper knows that its large increase of subscribers depends only upon the personal endeavors of the pastors, who are its sole agents. Every minister who has made a serious effort, has, during the last two months, increased his list; but only a portion of the preachers in charge have made any positive personal trial. It is necessary to educate the church up to thoughtful religious reading, and no work of the pastor will tend more to the edification of the membership than to awaken in it an interest in our Christian literature. A combined and earnest effort at this hour would enable us to enter next year upon our work with many thousand more readers and a much larger promise of usefulness to the church. These brethren who have been visitors this year will forget their silent pledges to themselves if their voices are not heard at the next Conference upon this subject.

The officers of the Association, elected at the meeting for the next year, are:

President—WILLIAM CLAPLIN.
Vice-president—SILAS PEIRCE.
Secretary—JOHN G. CAREY.
Treasurer—JAMES P. MAGEE.
Auditor—EDWARD H. DUNN.
Directors—ALDEN SEARE, LIVERUS HULL, CHARLES WOODBURY, PLINY NICKERSON.

BRIEF MENTION.

It is now openly announced that Bishop Henry W. Warren is to be married next the close of the present month to Mrs. J. W. Wilf, a very estimable, cultured and wealthy lady of Denver, Colorado. It is a prospective union in which both parties may be heartily congratulated.

There are at present ten evangelical newspapers published in Italy. Some of them are edited with marked ability.

The Methodist Episcopal Church in Germany now has 12,166 members, 85 pastors, and 190 local preachers.

A telegram from Old Orchard announces the death, Dec. 8, of Rev. Charles Andrews, aged 72 years—a venerable and much-respected member of the Maine Conference. An obituary will appear hereafter.

The Roman Catholics in Madagascar have 316 stations, 170 church edifices, 48 missionary priests and 89,905 adherents. The schools of the mission are attended by about 20,000 pupils.

The Methodist pastor of Grantham, N. H., Rev. G. H. Hardy, gives an interesting history of the establishment and progress of the church in that town, in his spirited, occasional sheet, entitled *Harvest Home*.

N. Tibbals & Sons, 124 Nassau St., New York, will issue in a few days the first number of "The Illustrator of the International Sunday School Lessons for 1884"—a new help for teachers and scholars to study the lesson. Price 60 cents per year.

We call the attention of all members of Bands of Mercy to the grand Bands of Mercy Day at the Foreign Exhibition, Boston, on Saturday, Dec. 29. Special cheap price of admission on that day to all members, both children and adults.

Hon. John H. Goodale, of Nashua, N. H., class '40, Wesleyan University, Middletown, Conn., has an interesting sketch of the life of Mr. Cornelius Van Ness Dearborn—a very useful and honored citizen of Nashua—in the November number of the *Granite Monthly*, of Concord, N. H.

It is a remarkable fact that something is being done in most of the countries of Europe for the better observance of the Sabbath. It is true that the movement is based rather upon humanitarian than religious grounds; but in either case it is progress in the right direction.

The appointed visitors to the School of Liberal Arts, of Boston University, gave two days last week to attendance upon the various classes, and expressed the warmest satisfaction both with the modes of the professors and with the recitations of the classes.

We received a note from a brother at the South in reference to writing for our columns, he having in previous years been a correspondent. The letter, in some way, was laid aside, and does not reappear, and we do not remember the name. If he sees this note, will he write again?

Be sure and send to the Depository for a copy of "Christian Educators in Council"—the full report of the proceedings and addresses at the late very interesting educational meeting at Ocean Grove. It is a whole library of information on the educational condition of the country.

It was an interesting sight, at the great meeting held last week in the interest of the very successful school at Hampton, Va., under Gen. Armstrong, to see the cultivated Indian and the black and white American on the same platform, recommending, in equally eloquent sentences, a common Christian education as the divine solvent of the problem of races in this country.

We think of Zion's Herald as limited in its patronage to New England. It reaches every State and Territory in the Union. It finds readers in Mexico, Brazil, and a number of the other South American countries. It is regularly sent to all portions of Great Britain, and to nearly every European State. It is read weekly in Turkey, India, China, Japan, Australia and New Zealand. We hope its mission may prove as beneficent as it is broadly extended.

The American Bible Society is vigorously prosecuting its work of canvassing and supplying the United States and Territories with copies of the Holy Scriptures. Five hundred colporteurs were at work last year. They visited 650,940 families, and put in circulation 349,010 copies of the Bible; donating 71,428 among those unable to purchase. It is a blessed and fruitful work.

John B. Alden, New York, sends out his December number of *Choice Literature*, with crowded pages of well-selected articles, for \$1 a year; and his "Irving Library," at two and three cents a number, containing such works as "Rab and His Friends" and "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow."

The National Temperance Society, New York, issues, in an octavo pamphlet, twelve Bible Temperance Lessons, with responsive readings, notes, questions and illustrations. They will make interesting and profitable concert exercises, or all unoccupied Sabbath in the course of the International Lessons.

Our excellent friend, the devoted evangelist of the West, K. A. Burnell, sends us the "Kansas Picture Book," which is not a primer for babes, but a picturesque illustration and description of the most characteristic sights, incidents, productions, statistics, etc., in this very thriving temperance State. It is prepared by G. E. Tewksbury, and published in Topeka by N. S. Johnson. It is an admirable hand-book of the State.

The work of evangelization is making steady, if not rapid, progress in France. The results that have been attained in the last ten years are an occasion of thankfulness on the part of all Christians. There is promise of still more abundant fruitage. The fields are ripe for the sickle.

Dr. Buckley seems to be specially subjected, in his family circle at this time, to severe discipline. He had but just returned to his home from the burial of his wife, in Detroit, when the death of his father-in-law, Hon. James Burns, of the same city, called him back again to attend his funeral. Mr. Burns was an honored and wealthy citizen of Detroit, and an esteemed member of the Methodist Church.

For the benefit of those who speak of the decline of Protestantism in the world, it may be said that in A. D. 1500, Protestantism did not exist; today, less than four hundred years from its birth, it dominates over four hundred and eight millions, while the Greek and Roman churches only embrace two hundred and eight millions of population.

Houghton, Mifflin & Co. issue a striking life-size portrait of Nathaniel Hawthorne, of the same general style as their popular portraits of Longfellow, Bryant, Whittier, Lowell, etc. All of these portraits by Mr. Baker are remarkable for their accuracy and fineness of execution. Mrs. Rose Hawthorne Lathrop, in a very warm and appreciative note, testifies to the success of the artist in presenting a life-size portrait of her father. The portraits are sold at \$1 each.

The last number of the *Northern Christian Advocate* is very handsomely printed on calendar paper, with fine illustrations of the Hall of Languages of Syracuse University, and of the different academic buildings within the patronage of the paper. The whole is a large and beautiful volume, and is one of the most elegantly published, valuable and useful sheets that has been issued from our denominational press. We congratulate our brother editor upon his very successful holiday paper.

The Connecticut Valley Methodist Social Union has been organized in Springfield, and has held its first meeting—an occasion of great interest. This occurred last week, and was called to order, after a fine supper, by Rev. Frederick Woods. Dr. W. Rice was appointed chairman *pro tempore*, and Mr. W. H. Meredith, secretary. After discussion the Union was fully organized, with an efficient body of officers. A good number of ministers and laymen were present. We believe these social religious clubs, composed of our ministers and members in our cities and large towns, may be made eminently profitable as well as entertaining.

The death of Rev. J. O. Means, D. D., one of the secretaries of the American Board, for nearly a score of years the greatly beloved pastor of one of the Congregational churches of Roxbury, is a great loss to the denomination, in which the sister churches will heartily sympathize. We have been honored by his acquaintance for many years. His well-known and joyful spirit and his devotedness to his work were even more apparent. His death was another Christian triumph.

It is a beautiful custom, now almost universal with us, to give Christmas presents. They should not be so expensive as to be a burden, but simple, and, if possible, significant. It is a sublime and joyful event that is commemorated. It is the children's holiday, and the hour when the hearts of the parents are turned to them by the benign Gospel of the infancy of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is well to symbolize this tenderness by gifts to the little ones.

Dr. E. Cooke, who has been making a short visit to his Northern home in Newton Centre, has returned to his work at Clifton University, Orangeburg. He has not appeared in such good health as at present for a year or two. His institution is enjoying marked prosperity, and is accomplishing a service in the educational work of South Carolina that is beginning to be appreciated by the intelligent citizens of the State.

The British Museum has brought together a collection of souvenirs of Martin Luther in honor of the 400th anniversary of the birth of the reformer. Among other things there are various engraved portraits of Luther and his wife; many copies of the Bible variously ornamented; and an authentic copy of the celebrated ninety-five theses that he affixed to the door of the church at Wittenberg.

Some of our Southern Methodist exchanges are greatly "riled" by the reported speeches of Dr. Buckley and Bishops Wiley and Simpson in reference to the condition of the poor whites, the evangelistic work of the Church South, its attitude on the temperance question, and its manner of receiving members without probation. They "deny" the allegations, and denounce the allegations, as a Western orator once uttered himself.

The Wesleyans of London are renewing their zeal and sacrifices of substance in adding to their chapels for the accommodation of the rapidly-growing population of that famous metropolis. The mantle of Sir Francis Lytton has fallen upon Sir William MacArthur, late mayor of London. He called a meeting of his friends at his home to start the matter of chapel-building afresh, and so much interest was awakened that £25,000 (\$125,000) were raised; his own subscription being £10,000 (\$50,000).

A really attractive, well-edited, and interesting household criticism is *Our Family Magazine*. Its new series commences with January, 1884. It is printed on a large quarto page in double columns, liberally illustrated, and is devoted to short articles on all domestic and instructive topics, and containing stories and literary miscellany. \$1.50 a year. Published in New York city, 739 and 741 Broadway.

It seems to be finally arranged that the New England Conference shall meet this year in Lynn, in the Common Street Church. The plan now is for the members to dine together in the spacious ladies' dining-room, and to find their homes in the pleasant families of the Lynn Methodists. The plan has many special inviting features about it, and promises a delightful session socially.

The late Rev. Wm. M. Baker, in a volume just published by A. D. F. Randolph & Co., entitled "The Ten Theophanies"—the appearances of Christ to men—strenuously defends the opinion, so ably urged at a Methodist Preachers' Meeting in Boston by Rev. J.

O. Knowles, the Abraham gave to Christ.

Our esteemed school department has felt it to be the duty of the Union to be the flag-ship of the month at the year, he will be comments upon but as soon as the Chinese studies. In the notice the students of the Union have the letters from the interpretation of our readers.

Represented a very apt turn of mind, and a belief of mankind on Monday. review of the theories of the contradictory of the admitted the leaders and history. The to the favor of the Quarterly

President V read a very relief of mankind on Monday. review of the theories of the contradictory of the admitted the leaders and history. The to the favor of the Quarterly

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O. Knowles, that Melchizedek, to whom
Abraham gave tithes, was a manifestation of
Christ.

Our esteemed assistant in the Sunday-
school department, W. O. Holway,
has felt it to be his duty to take the chap-
laincy of the U. S. S. "Trenton," which is to
be the flag-ship on the Eastern station. For
some months after the opening of the new
year, he will be unable to supply his excellent
columns upon the Sunday-school lesson;
but as soon as his vessel reaches its station
on the Chinese Seas, he will renew his grate-
ful relation to our Bible scholars and their
loyalty to the U. S. S. "Trenton." The other
members of the U. S. S. "Trenton" will be
in the interim, we are happy to an-
nounce that Rev. S. L. Gracy will be the
assistant and follow his model in the ex-
position of the lesson. Mr. Holway's contribu-
tions have been highly appreciated, and his
letters from China, as well as his Biblical in-
terpretations, will be heartily welcomed by our
readers.

Representative Horr in Congress made a
very apt turn upon Representative Hewitt,
going through the House a resolution
providing the President to discover if the Irish
assassin O'Donnell was an American citizen,
and if he had been properly tried by the British
court, by presenting a resolution, in the
same words, desiring inquiry to be made, if
the massed victims at Danville, Va., were
American citizens and had been properly vi-
olated by the Virginia courts. The other
resolution passed with little opposition; the
latter was obstructed by howls.

President Warren, of Boston University
read a very able essay upon the original
of mankind, at the Preachers' Meeting,
on Monday. The paper was an exhaustive
review of the various modern evolutionary
theories of the savage origin of the race, their
evolutionary character, and the consistency
of the traditional Biblical statements with
the admitted positions of the naturalistic phi-
losophers and the well-known facts of human
history. The meeting commended the paper
to the favorable consideration of Dr. Wheldon
of the Quarterly.

Holiday Books.
Roberts & Brothers issue a very attractive
illustrated catalogue of works appropriate
for the season of gifts of friendship. Among
these are, GRAY'S ELODY IN A COXLEY
CARTON, illustrated by Harry Penn.
This beautiful edition of the pathetic and so-
lemn hymn is published in a particularly neat
format, with charming engravings, inter-
preting the poetic lines to the eye, as the
deep melody of the verses touches the hearts.
It forms a very attractive gift. \$1.75.

On the same sized page, but in a different
style of binding, the grand hymn by John
Henry Newman, commencing "Lead, Kindly
Light," is profusely and richly illustrated.
It has a very expressive frontispiece, and the
music in which it is sung at the close. \$1.75.

In illuminated covers, held together by
silks and fine cords, the same publishers
issue a beautiful Christmas card-gift, entitled,
"Good Night and Good Morning." The
words are by Lord Houghton, the illustrations
and sketches by Walter Severn. \$1.25.

Roberts Brothers issue in holiday binding
a volume by Susan Coolidge—A ROUND
DOZEN, containing thirteen (a baker's dozen)
of the miniature stories, for the youngest of
the family circle, by this delightful writer.
\$1.50.

From Porter & Coates, Philadelphia, we
have BROWN ON THE RUINS, by Caroline
E. S. Norton, a handsomely-published and il-
lustrated quarto, on thick paper, in beautiful
type, having designs from leading artists,
well-known and engraved. This always
touching, as well as patriotic, poem is made
all the more effective by the artist's pencil.
\$1.50.

The same House issues, in like style, the
familiar household ballad—THE NIGHT BE-
FORE CHRISTMAS, by Clement C. Moore.
The illustrations are very happily designed
and well executed. It makes a beautiful
gift-book, with its ringing melody and fine
pictures. \$1.50.

The same publishers issue a more substan-
tial work, making a valuable and permanent
holiday gift to older members of the family
circle. It is entitled, THE POETRY OF OTHER
LANDS, compiled by N. Clemmons Hunt,
crown octavo, 445 pages. This attractive vol-
ume contains translations into English verse
of ancient and modern poetry of other
English-speaking peoples. These poems cover
a wide selection, chiefly from European
authors, arranged under various heads,
such as poems of nature, of love, historical,
personal, didactic, sentimental, religious, etc.
The names of the translators are given. The
volume covers a new field. The author has
accomplished his work in good taste, and his
volume forms a desirable addition to the poet-
ical literature of the library. \$2.00.

Porter & Coates issue for the delectation of
the boys, NED IN THE BLOCK HOUSE, by
Edward S. Ellis—a very interesting tale il-
lustrating life in the early settlements at the
West (\$1.25), and the QUEEN'S BOY
GUARD, by Margaret Vandegrift, a story for
girls, illustrating American life, where the
queen is not simply one, but many. Scores
of sweet mother's are well worthy of the
sentiment of the closing page—"The Queen,
God bless her, the mother to whom, under
whom, we owe all we are!"

F. & J. B. Young & Co., New York, issue,
in connection with the London Society for
Promoting Christian Knowledge, BLUE AND
RED, or the Discontented Laborer, by J. H.
Ewing. Quarto, in ornamental cover, with
colored illustrations. Amusing enough, in re-
gular verse, with astonishing and diverting
illustrations, the sad story of this remarkable
shellfish is told. No small boy can resist
this book. He will sell out to it once.

Our Book Agents in Cincinnati, Messrs.
Walden & Stowe, issue a fine holiday volume
—a broad quarto abundantly illustrated,
entitled, YOUNG PEOPLE'S SNAK BOOK. We
saw it stated, apparently by authority, that
this attractive book was edited by Dr. Curry,
although we do not find his name in its pages.
The profuse supply of cuts is made to illus-
trate well-selected articles of prose and verse,
in all departments of literature. It has ex-
tended stories, ballads, descriptions in natural
history, and short anecdotes. It will last the
young readers in the family circle all winter
for pleasant examination and reading. \$2.

R. Worthington, 770 Broadway, New York,
issue about the entire thing we have seen for
the youngest of the family circle. It is a col-
lection of illustrated leaflets, united by rib-
bons, in illuminated fringed covers, entitled,
THERE WAS A LITTLE GIRL, by Henry W.
Longfellow. It has a fine picture of the poet
and the little girl, and illustrations in silhou-
ette by Bertha M. Schaffer of the remarkable
fortune that befell her. It is quite a little gem.

Houghton, Mifflin & Co. issue the annual
volume of the very popular series of young
people's books by Horace B. Scudder, entitled,
this year, THE ENGLISH BOBBY FAM-
ILY. Quarto, illuminated covers, fully illus-
trated. \$1.50. The present volume con-
tains, with the rights and incidents con-
nected with them, of London and its vicinity.
The simple family story adds an interest to
the volume, and breaks up the monotony of
a continued relation. Many events and

names will be found particularly interesting
to New England youths, and no average boy
or girl will be able to resist the fascination of
these instructive pages.

Funk & Wagnall issue a delightful vol-
ume from the pen of Rev. Edward E. Hale,
entitled, OUR CHRISTMAS IN A PALACE. It
contains a series of very entertaining stories,
which, read at the fireside, will equally enter-
tain parents and children. \$1.

A. D. F. Randolph & Co. issue two very
neatly-published holiday volumes, forming beau-
tiful and permanently valuable gift books:
THE UPLANDS OF GOD AND OTHER RELIGIOUS
POEMS, compiled by the editor of "The
Changed Cross." These are chiefly modern
poems, eminently spiritual, and written with
excellent taste. The other volume is en-
titled, HYMNS FOR THE CHURCH ON EARTH;
HYMNS AND SPIRITUAL SONGS, selected and
arranged by Rev. J. C. Kyle, D. D., Bishop
of Liverpool. This is a collection of three
hundred modern hymns, all of a devotional
character, selected by the truly evangelical
and godly prelate of the Church of England
whose name the book bears. Both these vol-
umes will be prized companions in hours of
meditation and devotion. \$1.25, sent by
mail.

**Now is the favorable time
to push the canvass for new
subscribers for ZION'S
HERALD. Back numbers
will be sent from October 1,
making FIFTEEN
MONTHS for one subscrip-
tion. We hope no minister
in New England will fail to
make the offer known to
his congregation. Specimen
copies free.**

The Churches.
[See, also, page 2.]

MASSACHUSETTS.
NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE.
Worcester, Trinity.—A valuable sermon
by the pastor, Dr. Rogers, is given in one
of the city papers, "Train up a child in
the way he should go, and when he is old
he will not depart from it." He urged parental
of precept, example, authority; and the
latter should be specially used against bad
reading and bad company.

Leicester.—Methodism has met with many
difficulties here. The church has sometimes
stood alone, sometimes with the Webster
Square, or Cherry Valley charge. It now
forms with the latter a circuit, under the pas-
toral care of Rev. W. E. Dwight, who preach-
es here Sunday afternoon and holds a week-
night prayer-meeting. From fifty to one hun-
dred attend. Nov. 4 was made memorable by
the joining of an entire family from the Ro-
manists. The father and mother have been
wonderfully converted. Three of their little
children were baptized in the presence of the
congregation. The parents have been great-
ly persecuted, but through faith endure pa-
tiently. The singing by a double quartet,
under the able management of Mr. Mowry,
is excellent. Returning prosperity is abun-
dantly indicated.

Gill.—The Gill M. E. Church will be re-
opened, Dec. 20, with sermon by Rev. V. M. Si-
mons. Addresses will be made by the presiding
elder and former pastors. The church has
been thoroughly repaired inside and out—
painted, papered, new carpet, pulpit, win-
dows, cushions, and a partition across one
end making a vestibule and class-room. The ex-
pense, which has been about \$350, has all
been provided for. The church has long
needed repairs, and the few members of our
church in Gay have labored faithfully in this
work. May a revival follow!

North Bernardston.—The North Bernard-
ston mission will have a Christmas concert
and tree for the first time in its history. An ef-
fort is being made to furnish the hall where
the meetings are being held, with furniture
suitable to be used in a church, should the
mission be unable to get the use of the hall at
any time. A good lady, not a member of our
church, has put an organ in the hall for the
use of the mission.

Auburndale.—The closing exercises of the
fall term at Lasell Seminary, Auburndale,
will occur Monday evening, Dec. 17, at 7.30.
With the pupils' musical rehearsal, Tuesday,
at 7.45 P. M., Miss Kate Sanborn will deliver
a lecture on "Literary Forebodings."

Lynn, Common St.—The new school is
a great success. Its registered number is
455—an increase over last year of 145. The
attendance is 324. During November 78 seek-
ers were at the altar. December will evi-
dently show double that number. At the last
communion five were received by letter and
twelve on probation.

Hyde Park.—An interesting incident oc-
curred at the home of Mr. C. A. House, Dec.
4, in the marriage of Miss Ella Albertine,
second daughter of Rev. E. B. Bradford, to
Mr. W. R. Burnham, of Norwich, Conn.;
the father of the bride officiating, assisted by
Rev. J. Wagner. The presents were beau-
tiful and rich. Followed by the benedictions
of loving friends, the happy couple left on a
trip to Washington and other places.

Ipswich.—Rev. A. F. Herrick, a former
pastor, preached recently here. Although
absent in his regular duties as pastor in the
Conference, he had not visited the scene of
his former labors for twenty years. Mean-
while ninety-one of his former members have
passed to the better land. The first time he
set foot in Ipswich was the day Fort Sum-
ter was first fired upon.

East Cambridge.—The jewelry store of
Rev. Aaron Joslyn was forcibly entered,
where he was at dinner recently, and six
watches, some cases, and other property taken.

Turner's Falls.—Many commendations of
the Ladies' Circle entertainment recently
given are in the papers. This church with
its new edifice and central position needs
nothing but grace for a most useful and suc-
cessful career.

Chilmark Falls.—A deep religious inter-
ests, and revival meetings are held each
week.

Westboro.—Eight were forward for
prayers, Dec. 9 and six, Dec. 16. The pros-
pects for a revival are very encouraging.

Boston, Temple Street.—Nov. 25, Rev. C.
H. Fowler, D. D., preached in the forenoon a
ringing missionary sermon, to which the con-
gregation responded with a liberal collection.
In the afternoon there was a Sunday-school
missionary service, in which forty or more of
the children participated. Dec. 9, the services
were devoted to the cause of education. In
the forenoon the audience heartily enjoyed a
very instructive and convincing sermon from
Dr. W. F. Warren on "The Superiority of the
Christian College to the Christian School."
In the afternoon E. O. Fisk, A. M., president,
and the past growth, the present condition,
and the importance of ed-

ucation in the Methodist Church, were dis-
cussed by Dr. H. G. Mitchell, A. C. Trus,
A. M., R. F. Jabonnet, A. M.—all young
men of the congregation. Prof. G. C. Chase
of Bates College was present, and spoke in-
terestingly. The service was one of great
interest to all present. The ladies realized
about \$75 from a very enjoyable missionary
social on the evening of Dec. 5. Dr. Bol-
ton, the pastor, is doing a vast deal of pas-
toral work, and his efforts are well appre-
ciated, as is shown by growing congrega-
tions and increased interest in social meet-
ings.

MAINE.
Neeney.—The church at Neeney Corner has
been recently painted and a vestry finished
under the church at an expense of \$120. The
bills are all paid.

We have reason to thank God for His gra-
cious visitation. At Megalloway, the upper
part of this charge, we have had a very inter-
esting revival. Several kinds of families
have been converted, and several young peo-
ple. Fifteen have already joined the class,
and they are prospering finely.

The members of the M. E. Church and
friends of Upton, had a social gathering and
oyster supper in behalf of their pastor, Nov.
27, and realized the sum of \$22. A good
Congregationalist sister sent enclosed an en-
velope a \$5 bill. Other contributions were
made the day following. Many thanks for
their friendly interest in our behalf.

A. H. WITHAM.

A revival interest is in progress in the
Methodist Church at Waterville. For
prayers last Sabbath evening. The pastor
to be assisted in extra services by the
brethren on adjoining charges. Through the
"Alliance," temperance lightning struck
about sixteen rumblers in Waterville last
week, in the shape of indictments presented
by the Grand Jury in session at Augusta.

Rev. Bro. Robinson, of the New Portland
circuit, is seeing prosperity. Several have
recently commenced the Christian life. At
South Anson one was received in full mem-
bership and one on probation. His children,
who have been dangerously ill, are improv-
ing.

Rev. J. K. Masterman, of East Wilton cir-
cuit, has been holding successful revival ser-
vices near the village of East Wilton. The
mission church in the village where Bro. M.
preaches one-half the time, has been under-
going repairs.

The Seminary at Ken's Hill opens its win-
ter term with about one hundred and twenty-
five scholars. Prof. Brewster's place has not
yet been filled, but the classes are distributed
among the professors.

The wife of the late Sister C. W. Morse
gives Brother Morse \$500, and \$50 each to
the W. F. M. Society and the Parent Mis-
sionary Society, besides bequests to relatives.

Rev. H. W. Bolton, D. D., lectured in the
Hammond Street M. E. Church last week;
subject, "The Archery of Life."

Rev. S. Allen, D. D., supplied at Auburn
last Sabbath, and the people are very desir-
ous that he should continue with them till Con-
ference, or until Bro. Sprague recovers suf-
ficiently to resume his place. Bro. S. is still
very feeble.

Revival services are held every night in the
Methodist church at Hallsville. L.

EAST MAINE.
Houlton.—Bro. Lewis' third year will
soon close, much to his people's regret. Dur-
ing his pastorate the church property on the
charge has been greatly improved, the Sun-
day-schools are more interesting and well at-
tended, and the charge is financially and
spiritually prosperous.

Hodgdon.—A series of meetings have been
commenced here, with encouraging results.
Bro. Irvine and Nanton assisted the pastor
last week. An interesting quarterly meeting
was conducted here by Bro. Tilling, of Dan-
forth. A very elegant communion service
has been presented to the society by one of
the sisters. Many more are found on other
charges.

Littleton.—Bro. Glidden is, as usual, hard
at work. A series of meetings are being held
here, souls are coming to the Lord, and the
pastor's heart rejoices.

Caribou.—Bro. Page is doing a grand
work for Christ, visiting neglected districts
and establishing Sunday-schools.

Mapleton.—Bro. Kearney will soon close
his term as pastor. Coming here three years
previous, with no church to welcome him or
support promised, he leaves for the coming
year a fine personal with land attached, a
church of nearly sixty members, and a salary
of \$400 per year. Such brethren need every
encouragement, and we hope to see many
more of his zeal and humility in the mis-
sionary field of Aroostook.

Mattawaugue.—The church edifice has
just been finished, an d'pews of the Pine Street
Church, at 230 M. St., in the City Hall.
A series of meetings have been planned
for here by the pastor, Bro. Irvine, who is well
liked and an earnest worker for the Master.

Glenwood.—Bro. Kilgore is still hard at
work. A society has been organized, and the
pastor is determined that Methodism shall
take deep root. We trust, also, that a true
light may shine, far different from the lights
that have at times appeared in these neighbor-
hoods. The pastor and Bro. Kearney are
about to commence a series of meetings.

Danforth.—An interesting and well-at-
tended quarterly meeting has been held here.
Over one thousand dollars have been raised for
a much-needed church edifice. A series of
lectures to end with a concert has been
planned by the active pastor, Bro. Tilling,
who is also well liked both as pastor and
preacher.

AKOOSTOOK.
Dover.—The pastor, Rev. G. G. Winslow,
on a recent Sabbath received one person into
full membership and two on probation in the
church. The spire has been recently re-
paired, and the church painted outside.

At Bear Hill the church has been treated
to a new coat of paint. Bro. Winslow is held
in high esteem by the people. He was re-
cently presented with a set of the People's
Cyclopedia—a gift from his friends at
Dover.

Rockland.—Thanksgiving day was a day
of much interest and thankfulness here. The
church, which has been thoroughly repaired,
was reopened and rededicated as the Pratt
Memorial Church. Dr. J. W. Hamilton
and Dr. H. W. Bolton preached edifying ser-
mons in the forenoon and afternoon. Sub-
scriptions sufficient to liquidate the entire
indebtedness were taken. The society and
its zealous pastor, Rev. C. A. Southard, are
to be congratulated upon the happy issue.

On Thanksgiving evening, at the residence
of the officiating minister, Rev. W. W.
Hooper, president of Rust University, Holly
Springs, Mass., Rev. N. D. Clifford, of Cam-
den, Me., was married to Miss C. G. Knight
of E. Randolph, Me., late teacher of music in
Bennett Seminary, Greensboro, N. C. Mr.
Clifford is professor of mathematics, and Mrs.
Clifford becomes teacher of music in Rust
University. JASON.

VERMONT.
An encouraging work is in progress on the
Gouldsville and Berlin charges. Meetings
have been held on consecutive evenings for
two weeks at West Berlin. Bro. W. B.
Worthington and wife are earnestly working
for their people.

Bro. J. D. Beeman is home again from the
meetings of the Missionary Committee and
Board of Church Extension, of which he is a
member. He gave an interesting account of
the work of the Missionary Society at the
Montpelier Preachers' Meeting the first Mon-
day in December.

The winter term of the Seminary opens
favorably with full attendance.

Our church at Chelsea has undergone a
complete transformation in appearance under
the skillful oversight, and largely through
the personal work, of Bro. H. Webster and
wife. The roof has been shingled and the
blinds painted. In the inside the walls have
been kalsomined, the pews painted and var-
nished, the windows covered with the paper-
imitation of stained glass (and one would
hardly notice that it is not genuine stained
glass if his attention were not called to it), and
most tasteful bordering and centre pieces
on the ceiling, including the vestry as well as
audience room; and all for \$325, including
the shingles and paint outside. If any charge
wants its church property improved \$1,000 for
\$300, we advise it to send for Bro. and Sister
Webster.

We have to record the death of another of
our brethren. Bro. D. A. Mack, soon after
the war, conceived the idea of a home for the
children of deceased soldiers. He enlisted the
sympathies of friends in New Hamp-
shire, bought the old Webster farm in Frank-
lin, established the home, and has had charge
of it from the beginning. He has done a
good work, and has died in it, honored more
by those who have known best what he has
done. His work will abide, while he goes
"up higher."

The parsonage at Corinth is being greatly
improved in appearance by a coat of paint.

Chaplain McCabe has spent a week among
us, to the great satisfaction of all who were
fortunate enough to hear him. He gave his
popular lecture on "Bright Side of Life in
Libby Prison," at Barre, Montpelier, Island
Pond and Burlington.

Dr. Fowler, missionary secretary, spent
last Sunday at St. Albans, preaching to the
people on his favorite theme. He lectured
in the Methodist church on Monday evening,
on "Great Deeds of Great Men," and on
Tuesday put in an appearance at the union
Preachers' Meeting at Johnson, where he
was royally welcomed and where he gave
special interest to the occasion.

John Atwood, who died at Newbury
some time ago, left \$200 for the permanent
benefit of the church at that place.

When will some of our people who have the
means remember generously in their wills
our Seminary at Montpelier? It does seem
as if no cause calls so loudly for the bequests
of our own people as our school, until it has
been put beyond financial embarrassment;
though this is not intended as a reflection on
those who think otherwise. But we hope our
people will come to see this matter as those
see it who know most of the school in its
work and needs. H. A. S.

Gifts.—You should go to Boston and
see what Paine has in his immense Furni-
ture Store suitable for Holiday Gifts and
Bridal Presents. This stock is
worth traveling hundreds of miles to see;
but few museums or foreign fairs have
as much to interest one as this place has.
All the pieces for sale can be purchased
at very low prices; one can save the
railroad fare and have the pleasure of
purchasing a present nowhere else to be
found in America. Entrance to Ware
rooms, 48 Canal Street, opposite Maine
Depot, Boston.

Church Register.
HERALD CALENDAR.
Meetings for the Promotion of Holiness, every
Monday, at 2.30 P. M., in the City Hall.
Semi-annual of the Hope Street M. E.
Church, Providence, R. I., Jan. 1.
New Bedford District Preachers' Meet-
ing, at Middleboro', Feb. 11-13.

CONFERENCE. PLACE. TIME. BISHOP.
New England, Lynn, Mass., April 2, Foster
N. E. South, N. Bedford, Mass., " 5, Foster
N. Hampshire, Manchester, N. H., " 8, Hurlst
Vermont, Montpelier, Vt., " 9, Simpson
East Maine, Camden, Me., " 16, Harris
Maine, Bath, Me., " 16, Foster

QUARTERLY MEETINGS.
DOVER DISTRICT—FOURTH QUARTER.
JANUARY.
So. Tamworth, 5, 6. Gl. Falls, 10, 15, 20.
Milton, 7, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20.
Taftonboro' Circuit, 13, 18, 20, 21.
Dover, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30.
Rochester, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30.
East Rochester, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30.

FEBRUARY.
Epping, 2, 3. North Salem & West
Auburn & Chester, 7. Hampstead, 20.
Candia & Deerpark, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30.
Raymond, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30.
Freemont, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30.
Sandown, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30.
Bery 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30.
Lawrence, Bowdell St., 28.

MARCH.
Rockville, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30.
Greenland, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30.
Haverhill, Grace Ch., 13, Merrimackport, 28, 29, 30.
Wesley " 14, Amesbury, 28, 29, 30.
East Kingston, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30.
15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30.
Kingston, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30.

NOBICH DISTRICT—FOURTH QUARTER.
JANUARY.
Uxasville, 5, 6. Quakertown, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20.
East Thompson, 7. Vernon, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30.
Putnam, 8. West Thompson, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30.
Attawaugus, 9. North Groverdale, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30.
Danvilleville, 10. Salem, 25.
Moose, 11, 12. East Woodstock, 23.
Versailles, 12, 13. Mystic, 26.
Ballois, 13, 14. Mystic Bridge, 26, 27.
Tolland, Grace Ch. & West, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30.
Ipswich, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30.

[The full list will appear next week.]
New London, Conn. H. D. ROBINSON.

NOTICE.—Monday morning, Dec. 24, at 11 o'clock, Rev. C. P. Lyford will read a paper before the Boston Methodist Preachers' Meeting on "Mormonism."

NOTICE.—By vote of the New England Con-
ference, at its last session, a neurological list of the
wires of its pastors was ordered for publication in
the Annual Minutes. The Assistant Secretary,
V. T. Whitaker, desires the names and the dates of
the decease of these sainted women. Any persons
who can furnish these items are requested to send
them to him at 31 Kirk St., Lowell, Mass.

Acknowledgment.
A CARD.—The newly-married pastor and his
wife at West Duxbury thank the church and
friends of this place for their hearty and generous
reception of Thursday evening, Nov. 15, and many
kind wishes also the church and friends at
Duxbury for their thoughtful provision.

W. W. HALL.
H. M. TRACY HALL.
West Duxbury, Mass.

**THE GOVERNMENT CHEMIST ANALYZES
two of the Leading Baking Powders
and what he finds them made of.**
I have examined samples of "Cleveland's
Superior Baking Powder" manufactured at
Albany, N. Y., and "Royal Baking Powder,"
both purchased by myself in this city, and
I find they contain:
"Cleveland's Superior Baking Powder."
Cream of Tartar
Bicarbonate of Soda
Flour
Available carbonic acid gas 12.61 per cent,
equivalent to 118.2 cubic inches of gas per oz.
of Powder.
"Royal Baking Powder."
Cream of Tartar
Bicarbonate of Soda
Carbonate of Ammonia
Tartaric Acid
Starch
Available carbonic acid gas 12.40 per cent,
equivalent to 116.2 cubic inches of gas per oz.
of Powder.
Ammonia gas 0.43 per cent, equivalent to
10.4 cubic inches per oz. of Powder.
Note.—The Tartaric Acid was doubtless
introduced as free acid, but subsequently
combined with ammonia, and exists in the
Powder as a Tartrate of Ammonia.
E. G. LOVE, Ph. D.
New York Jan'y 17th, 1881.

The above shows conclusively that "Cleve-
land's Superior" is a strictly pure Cream of
Tartar Baking Powder. It has also been
analyzed by Professor Johnson of Yale Col-
lege; Dr. Genh of the University of Penn-
sylvania; President Morton of the Stevens
Institute; Wm. M. Habrshaw, F. C. S.,
Analyst for the Chemical Trade of New York,
and other eminent chemists, all of whom pro-
nounce it absolutely pure and healthful.

Business Notices.
**DRS. STRONG'S REMEDIAL INSTITUTE,
SARATOGA SPRINGS.**
ITS PRIVATELY CONDUCTED, and have
a large, successful experience in the treatment of
NERVOUS, FEMALE, GASTRIC AND CHRONIC DIS-
EASES. Among its remedial agents are Galvanic
and Faradic Electricity, Swedish Massage,
Vacuum Treatment, Inhalation of compressed
and artificial air; Turkish, Russian, Roman, Electro-
thermal and Hydrophatic Baths. — Send for Circular.

ADVICE TO MOTHERS.—MRS. WESS-
LOW'S SOUTHERN SYRUP should always be
used when children are cutting teeth. It relieves
the little sufferer of all pain. It induces natural, quiet
sleep by relieving the child of pain, and the little
cherub awakes as "bright as a button." It is very
pleasant to the taste. It soothes the child, softens
the bowels, and is the best known remedy for diar-
rhea, whether from teething or other causes.
Twenty-five cents a bottle.

MISS SAWYER'S SALVE, as now prepared,
cures more diseases of the skin than any
other salve, ointment or lotion. The best
family salve in the world, only 25 cents. All
druggists sell it. Wiggins & Co., Proprietors,
Rockland, Maine.

**Walker's Choice Stereoscopic and Dis-
secting Art Scenes.** Upon all popular subjects
with beautiful effects; illustrated lectures on
"Sights in London" and "Italy." "Natural Phenom-
ena," etc. Only \$50 per evening. Splendid
aid for Courses, Families, Societies, etc. Circulars
free. Please address C. L. Walker, Salem, Mass.
C. L. Page, Sec. of the Y. M. C. A., Newburyport,
writes, "Your views given here last Winter, were
highly commended." 721 eow

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An old physician, retired from practice, having
had placed in his hands by an East India missionary
the formula of a simple vegetable remedy for the
speedy and permanent cure of Consumption, Bron-
chitis, Catarrh, Asthma and all Throat and Lung
Affections, also a positive and radical cure for Nerve-
ous Debility and all Nervous Complaints, after hav-
ing tested his wonderful curative powers in thou-
sands of cases, felt it his duty to make it known to
his suffering fellow-men. Actuated by this motive and
a desire to relieve human suffering, I will send free
of charge, to all who desire it, this receipt, in Ger-
man, French or English, with full directions for
preparing and using, sent by mail by addressing
with stamp, naming this paper, W. A. STEVENS,
Purveyor of Drugs, Rochester, N. Y.

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medicine can restore it if it is lost. It is the suf-
fering as Hoo's Sarsaparilla. Try it.

**Wilbur's Compound of Pure Cod Liver
Oil and Nutrient.** This is a most valuable
remedy for the lungs, and the most effective
of the Oil is removed, and the whole rendered
palatable. The effective taste of the Oil has
long acted as a great objection to its use, but
in this form the trouble is entirely obviated.
A host of certificates might be given to testify
to the excellence and success of Wilbur's Cod
Liver Oil and Nutrient, but the fact that it is pre-
scribed by the medical faculty is sufficient. It is
sold by B. WILBUR, Chemist, Boston, and by all
druggists.

Money Letters from Dec. 8 to 15.
J. Alexander, J. W. Adams, J. A. Bowler, B. B.
Byrne, B. Battis, M. Bennett, J. E. Ratties, J. C.
Clark, C. Cleaves, C. S. Cummings, F. S. Ellis, S. C.
Paine, H. H. Hancock, M. Hoyt, F. H. Howard, L. A.
Keeby, W. Leonard, J. L. Moore, J. Noon, E. A.
Paine, W. Peck, J. Pearce, J. W. Parker, S. A. Rich,
L. Sprague, A. M. Swearingen, C. W. Smith,
Thompson, A. L. Wells.

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of One Million Dollars, reduced to \$1, and upwards
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best. Horse Car, Stages and Elevated Rail Road
at all depots. Facilities can live better for less
money at the Grand Union, than at any other
first-class hotel in the city.

Marriages.
RICH—DREW.—In East Boston, Dec. 11, at the
residence of the bride's father, Rev. L. B. Drew, by
Rev. H. H. Rich and Miss Hattie E. Drew, all of
E. B. B.

WHITE—HOSKING.—In Flatbush, Oct. 27,
by Rev. William Merrill, Henry M. White, of F.
White and Miss Hattie E. Hosking, of Bridgewa-
ter.

ROYAL BAKING POWDER
Absolutely Pure.

This powder never varies. A marvel of purity,
strength and wholesomeness. More economical
than the ordinary kind, and cannot be sold in com-
petition with the multitude of low test, short weight,
sluggish or phosphate powders. Sold only in cans.
ROYAL BAKING POWDER CO., 100 Wall St., N. Y.

The Week.

DAILY RECORD OF LEADING EVENTS.

Tuesday, December 17.

By the sinking of a steam barge on Lake Huron, near Port Austin, yesterday, seven persons lost their lives.

Alfred Tennyson, the poet laureate of England, has been made a baron, his title to be Baron Tennyson Deynouth of Aldworth.

M. Francois Lenormant, the French archaeologist, is dead, aged 48 years.

Several bills and resolutions were introduced and referred in the U. S. Senate yesterday, and the list of standing and joint committees was announced. The entire session of the House was consumed in the introduction of bills and resolutions under the call of the States, 84 having been presented.

Wednesday, December 12.

A decision regarding the customs duty on carpets, wool, virtually in favor of the importers, was rendered by Secretary Folger yesterday.

Suakin advises that the Egyptians were expecting night attacks from the rebel forces. The body of Hicks Pacha is reported found.

In the Senate yesterday bills and resolutions were introduced, and in the executive session the nomination of Postmaster-General Greaham was confirmed. The House was mainly occupied in the introduction of bills—197 being presented.

The election in this city yesterday resulted in the election of Gen. Augustus F. Martin for mayor, with a handsome plurality over Mr. O'Brien.

Thursday, December 13.

The Republican national committee, at its meeting in Washington yesterday, voted to hold the national convention for the nomination of candidates for President and Vice-President, in Chicago, Ill., June 3, 1884. Senator D. M. Sabia, of Minnesota, was elected to the chairmanship of the national committee.

A terrific gale prevailed throughout England, Ireland and Scotland Tuesday night, destroying a vast amount of property, besides killing and injuring a large number of people.

Baker Pacha does not deem it judicious to make an advance from Suakin with the force now at his disposal. The false prophet is said to be advancing on Darfur with 100,000 men.

It is reported that the French government will propose a renewal of peace negotiations regarding the Tonquin imbroglio. Should the Chinese decline to enter upon such an arrangement, Admiral Courbet will seize Bac Ninh, Sonay and Hung Hoa.

Friday, December 14.

Secretary Folger is still confined to his house in Washington by illness.

Charles McLaughlin, a San Francisco millionaire, was fatally shot by Jerome B. Cox in that city yesterday, the tragedy being the result of a seventeen years' litigation.

James Eastman, convicted for burglary, escaped from the Massachusetts State Prison yesterday.

The ferry boat "Garden City" has been badly burned at its dock in New York city, the property loss reaching \$30,000. Passengers and employees narrowly escaped death.

Sir Charles Hall, ex-vice chancellor of England, is dead.

The Chinese ambassador to France says that Sontay may be evacuated by the Chinese, but avers that Bac Ninh will never be given up. The French government has decided to send large reinforcements to Admiral Courbet.

In the Senate yesterday, after the introduction of several bills, the report of the committee on the proposed revision of the rules was taken up and discussed. Without reaching a vote on the main proposition, an adjournment was taken until Monday.

Saturday, December 15.

The Standard Theatre, New York, was destroyed by fire last night. No one was injured.

The Harris mill at Lowell, Mass., was damaged to the extent of \$50,000 by fire yesterday. Nine firemen were injured by falling walls.

A serious riot occurred at the primary election for delegates to the Democratic State convention, New Orleans, La., yesterday, resulting in killing three men and wounding eleven.

The treaty of commerce between Spain and Portugal has been signed.

Arequipa, Peru, has been evacuated by the Chileans.

The British Parliament has been further prorogued until the 5th of February next.

The number of immigrants arriving in this country for the past eleven months was 536,430, a decrease of 150,246 as compared with the corresponding period of last year.

Monday, December 17.

The expenses of the national printing-office last year were \$2,861,274.

The Spanish Cortes was opened at Madrid on Saturday evening, with the usual speech by the King.

Missionary troubles prevail at Siout, in Upper Egypt.

The German Crown Prince has arrived in Genoa, Italy, and was cordially received.

The Queen building at Halifax, N. S., was destroyed by fire yesterday, the property loss aggregating \$80,000.

James O'Donnell was hanged in Newgate prison at 8 o'clock (London time) this morning.

The schooner "Mary Ann Hulbert" foundered off St. Ignace, Lake Superior, on Saturday evening, in a terrific storm. A crew of five and fifteen laborers perished.

The affairs of Plymouth Church, New York, are reported to be in a gloomy condition. The annual meeting was very poorly attended, and Mr. Beecher spoke as if he felt his usefulness was rapidly coming to an end.

Forefathers' Day was celebrated last night at the Y. M. C. Union.

Austria has just received her first cargo of American wheat.

There was a \$15,000 fire in Fall River yesterday.

The Foreign Exhibition was never more attractive than at the present time. It affords a rare opportunity to see a great variety of curious and beautiful things brought here from the four quarters of the earth. No one fails to visit the exhibition as soon as convenient. See advertisement in another column.

FURNITURE—Paine has in stock the largest variety of Chamber and Parlor Stools, Lounges, Easy Chairs, Book Cases to be found in any one place in America. We cannot speak too highly of this immense stock of nice furniture to be had at very reasonable prices. This establishment packs and delivers goods very promptly, giving their customers the best satisfaction. Call at 48 Canal Street when you go to Boston and see for yourself.

NO BETTER PLACE to buy Turkish Rugs than at John H. Pray, Sons & Co.'s.

Mrs. OLIPHANT'S new serial, written expressly for the *Youth's Companion*, has its scene in the time of the Covenanters, and its heroine is a historical character.

In the friendly exchange of Christmas mementoes, none are more desirable than good photographs of relatives and friends. We take pleasure in calling the attention of our readers to Messrs. Marshall & Chute, Pelham Studio, 44 Boylston St. Mr. Augustus Marshall, whose rooms were formerly on Tremont Street, is well known to the public as a very successful photographer, and all who favor this firm with a call can feel sure their work will be done in an artistic and satisfactory manner.

WONDERFUL SALES OF BEATTY'S ORGANS.—The sale of Beatty's organs is unprecedented. During the month of November, 1883, 1,600, and still we are reliably informed that Mayor Beatty can scarcely supply the demand for his magnificent organs. Did you see his grand Holiday offer that appeared in our last week's issue? You should read it carefully and order without delay. It is a decided bargain.

WONDERFUL SALES OF BEATTY'S ORGANS.—The sale of Beatty's organs is unprecedented. During the month of November, 1883, 1,600, and still we are reliably informed that Mayor Beatty can scarcely supply the demand for his magnificent organs. Did you see his grand Holiday offer that appeared in our last week's issue? You should read it carefully and order without delay. It is a decided bargain.

D. S. B. JOHNSON & SON.
Negotiators of Mortgage Loans, 77, PAUL, MINN.
(Place between this paper.)

Now is the Time to Subscribe.

WILKIE COLLINS' NEW STORY.

I SAY NO!

OR,

The Love-Letter Answered,

WILL BEGIN IN

HARPER'S WEEKLY

For December 22, 1883.

Special Notice to New Subscribers

For 1884.

The Numbers of HARPER'S WEEKLY for December 22d and 29th 1883, containing the two first instalments of Wilkie Collins' new story, will be sent gratuitously to new subscribers requesting the same, on receipt by Harper & Brothers of four dollars, the subscription price for HARPER'S WEEKLY for 1884.

HARPER'S WEEKLY.

On the 5th of January, 1884, HARPER'S WEEKLY will enter upon its 28th year. This journal is acknowledged to be the best illustrated paper in America. It presents, week by week, in faithful and graphic pictures, the noteworthy events of the day; portraits of men of the time; reproductions of the works of celebrated native and foreign artists; cartoons by eminent pictorial satirists; and humorous illustrations of the ludicrous aspects of social and political life.

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Thus in HARPER'S WEEKLY Art and Literature go hand in hand. The variety and beauty of its illustrations are matched by its varied array of literature. Its pages are kept free from everything which would unfit it for the family circle. In art and general literature it always appeals to, and cultivates, good taste.

In the field of politics it holds court above party; and while it upholds the grand fundamental principles of the Republican Party, it maintains its right to criticize and dissent.

Among the many literary attractions of the new volume will be a Serial Story, by the popular novelist, WILKIE COLLINS, entitled "I Say No; or, The Love-Letter Answered."

An Illustrated Supplement will be issued gratuitously with HARPER'S WEEKLY for Dec. 22, containing a powerful and fascinating story, by a well-known American writer, entitled HOW JOHN NORTON KEPT HIS CHRISTMAS.

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These two books would constitute a library for any family of children, the value of which they would never cease to acknowledge. Parents who are forming little libraries for their households will do well to begin with these, even if their means forbid buying any others at present.—Boston Advertiser.

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HOUGHTON, MIFFLIN & CO., Boston.

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Will be incomplete this year unless the Double Holiday Number of ST. NICHOLAS finds a place in them. No such children's book has ever been sold for the money. It is a wonder. The Christmas cover, printed in eleven colors, is worth the price of the whole 184 page book. Price, 50 cents. If your dealer is out of copies, send the amount to

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